



## **Section V**

### **2004 STATEWIDE SUBSTANCE USE AND SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS**

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# STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## IDAHO SCHOOLS SURVEY SHOWS PREVENTION IS WORKING

### 2004 STATEWIDE SUBSTANCE USE AND SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

The following charts summarize the statewide results of the 2004 Idaho Substance Use and School Climate Survey, conducted by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) for Idaho's State Department of Education. The 2004 survey represented the fourth administration of a survey first used in 1996 and continued in 1998, 2000 and 2002. This replication permits the documentation of trends in substance use and school climate in Idaho.

**Statewide Sample Size by Grade and Region**

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V	Region VI	TOTAL
Grade 6	703	529	699	645	712	651	3,939
Grade 8	855	595	673	650	689	948	4,410
Grade 10	621	518	640	683	582	678	3,722
Grade 12	694	491	781	394	426	634	3,420
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,372</b>	<b>2,409</b>	<b>2,911</b>	<b>15,491</b>

### ALCOHOL USE:

Idaho students continue to report substantially lower lifetime prevalence rates than the national average. From 1996 to 2000, prevalence rates in Idaho appear to have dropped, particularly among young students. (The column "Idaho Change" reports the percentage change since the first survey of that grade level.)

**Percentage of Students Who Have Ever Tried Alcohol:** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	*	24.4	18.4	13.9	17.2	18.2	<b>-6.2</b>
8	55.3	52.5	51.4	47.0	43.9	49.7	42.2	39.6	38.7	37.9	<b>-11.8</b>
10	71.8	69.8	71.4	66.9	64.2	*	62.9	56.9	56.7	55.3	<b>-7.6</b>
12	79.2	81.4	80.3	78.4	76.9	67.9	64.6	64.1	62.7	58.4	<b>-9.5</b>

This comparatively low lifetime prevalence of alcohol use is a very positive result. While lifetime use is not an indicator of current use levels of Idaho's students, the fact that students in Idaho are less likely to even experiment with alcohol is a positive finding. It also indicates that middle school is a time when many students try alcohol for the first time. Experts argue for a clear, strong "no use" message for all drugs, including alcohol. Any delay of the first use of alcohol is positive.

### TOBACCO USE:

#### **Smoking Tobacco**

Reported smoking tobacco prevalence among Idaho teens remains far below national rates. In addition, tobacco smoking rates in Idaho have dropped substantially in all grades surveyed since 1996.

**Percentage of Students Who Have Ever Smoked Tobacco** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	*	8.0	5.2	2.9	3.2	3.7	<b>-4.3</b>
8	49.2	45.7	40.5	31.4	27.9	28.7	21.2	17.3	12.3	12.2	<b>-16.5</b>
10	61.2	57.7	55.1	47.4	40.7	*	40.6	30.9	24.9	23.7	<b>-16.9</b>
12	63.5	65.3	62.5	57.2	52.8	48.1	42.0	43.6	33.7	29.7	<b>-18.4</b>

### Smokeless Tobacco

Reported smokeless tobacco use prevalence among Idaho teens also remains far below national rates. Furthermore, use of smokeless tobacco appears to have dropped since 1996, since estimates at all grade levels are lower this year than in 1996.

**Percentage of Students Who Have Ever Tried Smokeless Tobacco** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	*	3.3	1.8	2.1	1.0	1.5	-1.8
8	20.4	15.0	12.8	11.2	11.0	8.8	5.5	4.7	5.0	4.2	-4.6
10	27.4	22.7	19.1	16.9	13.8	*	13.3	11.3	8.0	9.9	-3.4
12	29.8	26.2	23.1	18.3	16.7	21.5	17.2	16.1	15.0	12.8	-4.4

### DRUG USE:

Idaho students report substantially lower lifetime prevalence of drug use than national samples. For example, whereas 51.1 percent of high school seniors nationwide reported having used drugs at least once in their lifetime, only 35.4 percent of seniors in Idaho reported having used drugs.

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	*	7.6	5.6	5.7	7.0	9.4	+1.8
8	31.2	29.0	26.8	24.5	21.5	25.5	18.0	17.3	18.5	18.6	-6.9
10	45.4	44.9	45.6	44.6	39.8	*	36.7	28.1	34.9	32.7	-4.0
12	50.8	54.1	54.0	53.0	51.1	37.6	36.2	35.3	37.2	35.4	-2.2

**Percentage of Students Who Ever Used Any Drug** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

### Marijuana:

Idaho students reported lower lifetime prevalence rates of marijuana use than do national samples. Students surveyed reported less marijuana use in 2004 than in 1996, but there was little change from 2000 for eighth- and tenth-grade students.

**Percentage of Students Who Ever Use Marijuana or Hashish** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	*	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.3	-0.8
8	23.1	22.2	20.3	19.3	16.3	14.7	10.9	10.2	8.8	9.3	-5.4
10	39.8	39.6	40.3	38.7	35.1	*	31.2	23.6	25.5	23.8	-6.7
12	44.9	49.1	48.8	47.8	45.1	33.4	31.2	32.0	29.0	27.1	-6.3

### Methamphetamines:

When compared to 1996, the reported use of methamphetamines by students in eighth and twelfth grades has declined. When compared to 1998, tenth-graders' reported use has also declined. (Because of wording differences, comparable national data was not available for this question.)

**Percentage of Students Who Ever Used Methamphetamines** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.8	+0.1
8	4.4	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.2	-2.2
10	*	7.8	6.9	5.5	4.6	-3.2

12	10.4	8.2	8.6	4.8	5.0	<b>-5.4</b>
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**Inhalants:**

Although inhalant consumption affected only between five and 10.2 percent of students, it was the most commonly reported drug use among sixth grade students. Compared to 1996, the use of inhalants by eighth grade students has declined.

**Percentage of Students Who Ever Use Inhaled Substances** (\*Grade not included in survey for that year.)

Grade	National 1996	National 1998	National 2000	National 2002	National 2004	Idaho 1996	Idaho 1998	Idaho 2000	Idaho 2002	Idaho 2004	Idaho Change
6	*	*	*	*	5.0	5.7	4.1	4.4	3.5	5.0	<b>-0.7</b>
8	21.0	20.5	17.9	15.2	9.1	16.0	10.2	9.7	8.2	9.1	<b>-6.9</b>
10	19.3	18.3	16.6	13.5	10.2	*	10.7	11.6	8.8	10.2	<b>-0.5</b>
12	16.6	15.2	14.2	11.7	7.2	10.0	7.1	7.5	6.0	7.2	<b>-2.8</b>

**Student Attitudes toward Alcohol and Drug Education**

About half of all students reported that school had been their primary source of information about the dangers of drugs and drinking (55.6%). Students indicated that they believed that alcohol and drug education should begin in elementary school (61.2 percent). About twenty-five percent of twelfth grade students felt that it should begin by third grade, or earlier, while 29 percent felt that fourth or fifth grade was an appropriate time.

**Parental Supervision and Student Drug Use**

As in 2000 and 2002, there was again a strong relationship between the level of parental supervision and the level of student drug use. Students who reported low supervision by their parents were much more likely to report low, moderate, and high levels of drug use, compared to students who were highly supervised.

A final document detailing the 2004 statewide results of the new survey is available on our web site:  
<http://www.sde.state.id.us/Safe/Publications/>.

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